

ing from the opening of the institution has constantly increased, and the excess in the number of females now reaches forty-one."

"By the kindness of friends in the adjoining village, we have been furnished with a great number of very pleasant musical entertainments; and these, together with a regular singing school through the winter season, and with exhibitions of various kinds, tableaux and theatrical performances by the patients and their attendants, have afforded abundant innocent amusement, and pleasantly occupied many of the long winter evenings. Riding and walking, coasting and skating, and various games, amuse and interest those capable of joining in them. Once in three or four weeks a dancing party, in which both sexes are allowed to join, affords a favorite recreation, more popular, perhaps, than any form of amusement in use.

"The library has been somewhat increased, both by purchase of books and by donations from benevolent individuals; and, although much smaller than our actual necessities demand, affords much instruction and amusement."

Dr. Prince discusses no medical question, illustrates no special medical subject in his report, but confines himself mostly to a narrative of the proceedings of the year, and an exposition of the hospital's greatest defect—the liability to temporary deprivation of its supply of water. It is to be hoped that this defect will soon be remedied. The establishment, as a whole, is excellent; and we take pleasure in here bearing testimony, after personal observation, to the beauty of its situation, its general completeness, and the ability of its management.

Among the improvements of the year is a barn 104 feet in length and 54 in width. P. E.

ART. XI.—*A Practical Treatise on the Diseases of the Heart and Great Vessels, including the Principles of Physical Diagnosis.* By WALTER HAYLE WALSHE, M. D., &c. A new American from the third and much enlarged London edition. Philadelphia: Blanchard and Lea, 1862. 8vo. pp. 420.

It is interesting to compare the first edition of this treatise with the one just published. The former is little more than the embryo, the latter the mature and almost completed work. At first one small volume sufficed to contain all that Dr. Walshe had to communicate respecting physical diagnosis in its application to the lungs, heart, and great vessels. But that volume evidently presented the results of the author's personal observation and reasoning; it everywhere gave signs of a vigorous and original life, destined to a much more perfect expression. Even its sententious and sometimes uncouthly concise style, revealed a latent power struggling towards complete development by the slow but steadily progressive accretion of new materials and the assumption of a more perfect scientific form.

The second edition, published in 1854, and still embracing the whole of thoracic pathology, assumed an imposing bulk, and gave evidence on every page that the doctrines of the author were growing wider and more definite, and that however modest he might be in speculating where others did not hesitate to dogmatize, he, nevertheless, felt himself competent to speak as one having authority. During the eight years that have since elapsed, the work of Dr. Walshe having reached its maturity, by a fissiparous generation each half has established an independent life, and two separate volumes, each of them nearly as large as the preceding one, now contain the latest and fullest conclusions of the author respecting diseases of the lungs and of the heart.

Of the one before us it would be difficult to furnish such an account as would convey an accurate idea, especially to the American reader who has not had access to the second English edition, which was not republished here. Indeed, we cannot but think that improvement in the diagnosis of cardiac diseases has been notably retarded in this country by this omission. Those who have not had access to this, or some equivalent source of information, will be surprised to find how great a degree of certainty now attends diagnosis of the several forms of organic and functional disease of the heart and great vessels, of the affections

of the two sides of the heart, and those of its several valves and orifices. They will at the same time be struck with the number of circumstances which render caution necessary in the formation of diagnostic opinions, and thus recognize the extreme difficulty which, for all but thorough experts, environs many cases in cardiac pathology, and which sometimes renders their analysis impossible by trained physicians of the acutest senses and the maturest judgment.

It would be impossible for us to enumerate all the instances in which the present edition excels the preceding one, for there is scarcely a chapter in it which has not been enlarged by important additions, or materially modified in its statements, while in several entirely new subjects are discussed. The following may be particularly referred to, as embodying a large amount of new matter: "The Weight and Measurements of the Heart;" "The Theory of the First Sound;" "Dynamic Intra-cardiac Murmurs;" "The Impulse of the Heart;" "Influence of Stethoscopic Pressure upon Murmurs;" "Auto-audible Murmurs;" "Perverted Innervation of the Heart;" "Cardiac Motor Paralysis;" "Syncope;" "Angina Pectoris;" "Anæmia and Congestion of the Heart;" "Acute Pericarditis;" "Alterations of Secretion in the Pericardium;" "Atrophy and Hypertrophy;" "Cardiac Flux;" "Fatty Heart;" "Cancer of the Heart;" "Prognosis, &c., of Diseases of the Valves;" "Malpositions of the Heart;" "Intra-cardiac Blood-concretions;" "Cyanosis;" "Inflammation, &c., of the Pulmonary Artery;" "Aneurism;" "Cancer, &c., of the Pulmonary Artery and Veins."

In elucidating these subjects the same precision of statement and compression of matter which distinguished the former editions are to be observed; indeed, the author appears to have studied with singular care, and to have illustrated with remarkable success, the difficult art of condensation. Whoever seeks for easy reading will not find it here. On the contrary, the work demands the closest attention thoroughly to comprehend it. And yet so far from being chargeable with obscurity, its language is everywhere accurate and expressive, and whoever takes pains to study it, will be convinced that it would have been difficult to compress more truth in fewer words. If it sometimes substitutes the short and familiar phrases of clinical teaching, for the more polished locution of literary adepts, it is generally because the latter style is too poor in appropriate words to depict the subject accurately.

With this passing notice, we commend the work to our readers as, perhaps, the most valuable in the literature of cardiac pathology. Upon it, and its associated treatise, *On Diseases of the Lungs*, we think that Dr. Walshe may fairly rest his claim to stand in the first rank of his profession.

A. S.

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ART. XII.—*The Health of the Royal Navy considered, in a Letter addressed to the Rt. Hon. Sir John S. Packington, Bart. G. C. B., M. P.* By GAVIN MILROY, M. D., F.R.C.P., Medical Inspector under the General Board of Health from 1849 to 1854, Medical Commissioner to Jamaica in 1851, and a member of the Sanitary Commission of the Army in the East, in 1855-56. 8vo. pp. 70. London, 1862.

It is very evident that the strength and efficiency of an armed force, whether afloat or on shore, is to be measured, not by the number of names inscribed upon the ship or regimental roll, however complete may be the material equipments of the force, but rather by the actual number of hearty, vigorous men, at any moment available for whatever duty they may be called upon to perform. Every man whose name is upon the doctor's list is so much power withdrawn from the effectiveness of the living machine. Not only is the force directly weakened by the loss of such of its number as are excluded from duty by disease, but, indirectly by the extra labour cast upon the well men to supply the loss of those who are disabled by sickness, and of those also necessarily occupied in attendance upon the latter. When disease prevails to any extent among a ship's crew, the energies of the well are overtaxed, their hours for eating and sleep are inter-